

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14745 101002Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 A-01 /023 W
-----020347 111022Z /11
R 091602Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0151

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14745

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS AND INR DIRECTOR BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR EG
SUBJ: INTSUM

REF: STATE 142933

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INTSUM FOR PAST TWO MONTHS AND WISHES TO CONGRATULATE INR FOR THIS TIMELY AND USEFUL SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE SPEED WITH WHICH THIS INFORMATION IS COLLATED AND SENT BACK TO THE FIELD, SOMETIMES BEFORE THE POST ITSELF HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COVER THE SAME SUBJECT (AND EMBASSY CAIRO PRIDES ITSELF ON REPORTING TODAY'S EVENTS TODAY).

2. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT, ON OCCASION, THE DEMANDS OF SPEED MAY RESULT IN DISTORTIONS AND INACCURACIES WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO CORRECT GIVEN EMBASSY'S REPORTING LOAD AND NUMBER OF ADDRESSEES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ITEM ON EGYPT IN REFTTEL, THERE WERE SEVERAL FACTUAL ERRORS OR DISTORTIONS. IN PARA1, GOE HAS NOT YET BANNED ANYONE FROM PUBLIC OFFICE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOW EMPOWERED TO DO SO. NOT ALL OF THOSE ACTIVE IN POLITICAL LIFE PRIOR TO 1952 ARE TO BE BANNED (SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED WERE MEMBERS OF
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SOCIALIST AND NATIONALIST PARTIES). RE PARA 1, (E)
THE THREE MAJOR CAIRO DAILIES ARE 100 PERCENT OWNED BY THE ASU AND HAVE BEEN FOR MANY YEARS. RE PARA 3, WAFD LEADER SAREGEDDIN IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. WHILE THERE ARE ALSO FINE POINTS OF INTERPRETATION WE MIGHT DISPUTE, WE FIND IT HEALTHY TO HAVE INR'S ASSESSMENT WITH WHICH TO COMPARE OUR OWN.

3. IN BRIEF, MESSAGE WE WISH TO CONVEY IS THAT INTSUM PROVIDES MOST USEFUL FEEDBACK TO POSTS ON INR THINKING. BECAUSE IT IS OFTEN FIRST REPORTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AND GOES TO WIDE VARIETY OF POSTS, WHERE WE ARE SURE IT READ AS AVIDLY AS HERE, WE URGE THAT ITS AUTHORS GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO FACTUAL ACCURACY AND, WHEN ITEMS ARE NOT OF GREAT URGENCY, THEY MIGHT BENEFIT FROM WAITING FOR ASSESSMENTS FROM EMBASSIES BEFORE TRANSMITTING INR ASSESSMENT TO THE FIELD. EILTS

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